

MOTION

The Venice Pier is a symbol of Los Angeles, and the pier's reconstruction under the leadership of Ruth Galanter is a symbol of the area's revitalization.

Ruth Galanter's tenure on the City Council achieved progress on issues ranging from recycling to sustainable building to fighting airport expansion. While she represented every neighborhood in her district, Venice was her grassroots home and special place in her legacy.

In the mid 1970s, the Venice Pier was closed due to storm damage, and remained closed to the public for more than 13 years. When Ruth Galanter was elected in 1987, a Recreation and Parks employee told her they had located funding to tear down the Venice Pier. Ruth had recently spent years saving the Santa Monica Pier from the same fate, and told the Recreation and Parks Department unequivocally that the pier would not be demolished.

Ruth worked with the community and a grassroots organization headed by Frank Mattox. She brought in the California State Coastal Conservancy to do a feasibility study, and, in 1992, voters passed Proposition A, which included funding for the Venice Pier. At Ruth's insistence, the Proposition A initiators included funding for not only the Venice Pier, but the entire Ocean Front Walk renovation.

Recreation and Parks staff went to bid, hired a contractor, and began the process of tearing down and rebuilding a third of the pier, renovating another, and salvaging the last third. In 1997, the pier was completed and became the first fishing pier in California to be fully accessible.

If it hadn't been for Ruth's commitment, vision, and perseverance, the Venice Pier would not exist today. The honorary naming of the Venice Pier as "Ruth Galanter Pier" would be appropriate recognition for her dedication and service to the Venice community.

I THEREFORE MOVE to request that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners name the Venice Pier "Ruth Galanter Venice Pier."

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



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